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FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

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IN CONVERSATION WHICH MR. COUNSELOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS NORDNESS HAD YESTERDAY WITH VON ECKARDT, CHIEF FED PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE AND ONE OF CHANCELLOR'S CLOSEST ADVISOR SLG ECKARDT SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE AND EXPLAIN CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS RE PROPER WESTERN HANDLING SOVIET PROPOSALS RELATING BERLIN. CHANCELLOR CONVINCED, ECKARDT STATED, THAT LINKING BERLIN ISSUE WITH OVERALL GERMAN PROBLEM WOULD CONSTITUTE MAJOR ERROR AT THIS JUNCTURE, OPENING FLOODGATES TO ENDLESS STREAM OF SUGGESTED COUNTER-PROPOSALS IMPLYING WESTERN WEAKNESS AND UNCERTAINTY WHICH COULD ONLY RESULT IN UNNECESSARILY CEDING AT LEAST 30 PERCENT OF GAME TO SOVS. VON ECKARDT ADDED THAT ADENAUER BELIEVES IN DESIRABILITY WESTERN READINESS NEGOTIATE OUTSTANDING ISSUES BUT WESTERN POSITION SHOULD, IN HIS VIEW, MAKE PLAIN THAT THIS CAN OCCUR ONLY AFTER ULTIMATUM-LIKE THREAT TO BERLIN REMOVED.

WITH RESPECT TO PARIS MEETING OF FOMMINS ECKARDT STATED IT FEDREP VIEW THAT REAL FUNCTION OF MEETING IS ISSUANCE JOINT WESTERN COMMUNIQUE FIRMLY HOLDING LINE AGAINST SPECULATION AND DIVISIVE TENDENCIES WELL AS SUPPLYING POLICY LEAD FOR ESSENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION FURTHER COURSES ACTION. THERE IS TIME, HE SAID, FOR PREPARATION REPLY TO SOVS WHICH IN THIS CASE MUST BE OF SOME LENGTH AND MUST INCLUDE APPROPRIATE REFUTATION AND CORRECTION SOV FALSIFICATION POST-WAR HISTORY. CHANCELLOR, HE SAID, FEELS STRONGLY THIS POINT.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ECKARDT DID NOT DEVELOP ARGUMENTS FURTHER IN

FIRST PAR

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FIRST PAR ABOVE, BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO SURMISE FROM TENOR HIS REMARKS THAT CHANCELLOR'S STRONG VIEWS MAY BE BASED ON FEAR THAT WESTERN INJECTION BERLIN ISSUE INTO FRAMEWORK LARGER AND EVEN MORE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT GERMAN PROBLEM WOULD NOT ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS WEAKENING OF WESTERN RESOLVE TO STAND FIRM ON BERLIN BUT WOULD UNAVOIDABLY ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE FORCES, BOTH GERMAN AND FOREIGN, WHICH FOR DIFFERING REASONS APPEAR EAGER TO PROMOTE DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSALS SUCH AS RAPACKI PLAN.

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